STURGEONS
Protect Danube’s Treasure

DANUBE STURGEONS NEED YOUR HELP TO RECOVER

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the EU, only Romania and Bulgaria have viable populations of wild sturgeons.
- Four out of the five Danube sturgeon species are critically endangered, mainly because of the interest in their caviar, while one was already disappeared from the river.
- The decline of Danube sturgeons is seen by the rapidly decreasing catches.
- If sturgeons disappear, fishermen will forever lose this source of income.

WHY ARE STURGEONS SO VULNERABLE?

- Overfishing before the fishing ban, and now poaching, is the main threat to Danube sturgeons.
- Sturgeons are especially vulnerable because of their long life cycle and late maturity.
- Dam stops sturgeons from completing their spawning migration and from reproducing.
- Channelization of the river, gravel extraction and navigation are big threats to sturgeons.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

- All sturgeon species are listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- In Romania and Bulgaria, sturgeon fishing is banned until the end of 2015.
- All caviar in international trade must be accompanied by CITES documents and all caviar must have CITES labels.

www.danube-sturgeons.org

Beluga Sturgeon / Huso huso
Status: Critically Endangered
The largest freshwater fish in the world. The largest Beluga ever caught weighed 1,571 kg and was 7.2 m long.

Russian Sturgeon / Acipenser gueldenstaedtii
Status: Critically Endangered
The most common sturgeon species in Bulgarian caviar terms.

Stellate Sturgeon / Acipenser stellatus
Status: Critically Endangered
87% decline in global commercial catch reflects the decline in species population.

Sterlet / Acipenser ruthenus
Status: Vulnerable
Lives entirely in freshwater, and unlike other sturgeons does not migrate from the Black Sea.

Ship Sturgeon / Acipenser nべき直
Status: Critically Endangered
Believed to be on the verge of global extinction and possibly extinct in the Danube.

European Sturgeon / Acipenser stellatus
Status: Critically Endangered
Extinct in the Danube, with the last wild population existing in France.